

REMARKS

Applicant expresses appreciation to the Examiner for consideration of the subject patent application. This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed December 17, 2004. Claim 6 was rejected.

Claims 1-5 were originally presented. Claim 6 was previously presented. Claim 6 remains in the application. Claims 1-5 were previously canceled without prejudice. No claims have been amended or added.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Independent claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Conzelman, Jr. et al., U.S. 2,656,545 (hereinafter "Conzelman) in view of Haslam, II et al., U.S. 5,413,611.

The Office Action asserts that Conzelman discloses in FIG. 1 a grip device (25), a plurality of digits (32), digit tip pads with a pouch (155) connected to the end of each digit and a hydrostatic fluid filled pouch (157). However, FIG. 1 of Conzelman merely shows a device for transmitting pressure to a user. (See Col. 1, Lines 1-12). The Conzelman device is not configured to allow a better grip on an object being held with the hand.

Conzelman also fails to disclose a hydrostatic fluid filled pouch. Instead, Conzelman discloses a first bladder 150 connected to a second bladder 152. (See Col. 2, Line 44 to Col. 3, Line 7). Fluid from the first bladder travels to the second bladder which is used to apply pressure to the skin of the user. Thus, the fluid within the first bladder is a hydraulic fluid which travels to the second bladder and back depending upon pressure placed upon the first bladder. By definition, a hydraulic fluid flowing between two places cannot be a hydrostatic fluid.

The term hydrostatic fluid means that the fluid remains within an enclosed pouch to improve gripping. Because the hydrostatic fluid remains in the pouch, it can conform to an object and the Conzelman device cannot do this.

Claim 6 of the present invention claims a grip device, comprising:

(a) **at least two opposable digits;**

(b) **a drive linkage** configured to enable the two opposable digits to grip; and

- (c) **digit tip pads** with a pouch connected to the end of each digit; and
- (d) a **hydrostatic fluid filling the pouch**, wherein the hydrostatic fluid allows a better grip on an object being held.

Neither Haslam nor Conzelman show two opposable digits or digit tip pads having a hydrostatic fluid filled pouch connected to the end of each digit. It is not disclosed in either application that the digits on the prosthetic devices are opposable. Further, as in Conzelman, Haslam does not teach or disclose a drive linkage configured to enable the two opposable digits to grip. Rather, Haslam discloses a computerized electronic hand prosthesis device which is capable of exerting a mechanical gripping force in response to an electric signal produced by the movement of a muscle. While Haslam discloses a prosthetic device capable of producing a mechanical gripping force, no drive linkage per se is taught or disclosed in Haslam.

Thus, the combination of Conzelman and Haslam does not produce the present invention. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 6 is allowable, and urges the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

CONCLUSION

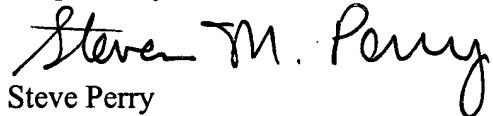
In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claim 6 is in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant requests that the rejections and objections be withdrawn, and that the claim be allowed and passed to issue. If any impediment to the allowance of this claim remains after entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is strongly encouraged to call Steve Perry at (801) 566-6633 so that such matters may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Check No. 21950, in the amount of \$60, is enclosed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(1), for a 1 month extension of time pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136. No claims were added. Therefore, no additional fee is due.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee or to credit any overpayment in connection with this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 20-0100.

DATED this 18th day of April, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,


Steve Perry
Registration No. 45,357

THORPE NORTH & WESTERN, LLP
Customer No. 20,551
P.O. Box 1219
Sandy, Utah 84091-1219
Telephone: (801) 566-6633